

SEP 23 1999

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Chrisman Kearn
12470 Fiori Lane, Sebastopol CA 95472

September 20, 1999

Dear Executive Director Snow,

Our state's current CAPTEC Plan is an example of lazy non-assertive and outdated solutions. It avoids confronting the deeper problems of major public works projects. Building dams and canals indeed are tried and true for water delivery but at what cost? Up and down river damage is well understood and documented. Naturally-occurring Riparian-corridor wildlife, plant communities and aquatic food webs are irreparably altered as are public sport and recreation. And, to further insult human intelligence, these ^{solutions} plans have a high cost and short life expectancy.

Instead, let us invest more in long-term water-conservation and management strategies whose benefits are permanent and should improve along with advances in technology. Please don't ask us all to pay for environmentally-damaging projects that degrade our quality of life while benefitting industrialized farming. Reduce your costs of policing water waste by introducing significant incentives for Agricultural/Industrial water conservation & management and pollution reduction. Let those who have gain to be made do their homework and foot the bill. State-funded incentives, tax credits, etc. is a way of fostering cooperation. Set a precedent and teach industry that part of doing business in California is safeguarding the environment. The land we live on belongs to us all. Rivers and streams are much more than the commodity water which is at issue here. Use of water and our other Natural Resources thus need be judicious and must not favor those who stand to gain from Public-supported projects. Please, no more dams until comprehensive effort has been put forth to conserve what is presently available. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely, Chrisman Kearn